



**MA in Special Education:  
Practical Skills Transformative Learning**

# MA in Special Education: Practical Skills Transformative Learning

*practice enhanced research: research enhanced practice*

The Masters explores alternative pedagogic approaches to special needs education through the medium of practical skills. It focuses on the process of transformative learning as a continuous ongoing creative act. Throughout the programme, there will be input from notable speakers from the realms of education, ecology, movement and medicine.



The course combines theoretical studies, philosophical debate and reflection with practical, experiential learning within the context of craft, landwork and biodynamic ecology. It will be delivered through a combination of lectures, seminars and workshops. Through the programme, participants are provided with an opportunity to research and experience 'practical skills' as a form of transformative education, within the context of a pedagogic laboratory, as offered by the Ruskin Mill Trust.

## Programme Goals

- Develop and create innovative practical approaches to teaching and learning in special needs education
- Recognise and meet children and youth with disabilities and/ or special learning difficulties with knowledge, respect, dignity – in a collaborative process
- Develop conscious awareness of educational potential, through the re-connection of the hand (practical), the heart (emotional) and the head (intellectual)
- Develop conscious awareness of pedagogic possibilities and potential in new situations, contexts and locations
- Facilitate transformative learning through the relocation of the point of learning from the head to the hands and heart
- Effectively evaluate, reflect and research own practice in order to enhance the effectiveness of teaching and learning within a special needs context, reflecting the specific needs and resistances presented by the individual learner.



## Student Feedback

*It was completely inspirational, and has left me with a huge burst of energy and enthusiasm for life, work and of course the course!!! I learnt so much, there were so many absolutely brilliant speakers. So many great topics put across with such depth.*

*I loved the opportunity to leave all the words and the structures, and to lose myself in the craft of clay. Perhaps my hands and my body and my senses taught me more than I learnt from all the talk and sitting, - still it certainly didn't hurt or make me forget anything from the classroom.*

## Programme Structure

The programme is delivered over three years on a part-time basis, through a series of short residential blocks in the UK and Norway. Modules include;

- The Philosophy of Science and the History of Special Education
- Research Methods and Situated Transformative Action Research
- Theoretical Approaches to Practical Skills Transformative Learning
- Special Education and Symptoms of Disabilities
- Work-based Learning: Enhancing Professional Practice
- Masters' Thesis



## Who is the programme for?

The programme is aimed at individuals with experience of working within in an educational setting who have an interest in exploring alternative pedagogic approaches and/or Special Needs Education.

Potential students might include individuals:

- Working in schools and colleges
- Working with land, nature and craft in a pedagogical context
- Working with learners with special and/or complex needs
- With an interest in alternative pedagogic approaches
- Who wish to engage in continued professional development, in order to enhance their pedagogic practice
- Who wish to further their research into pedagogic approaches

## How to I apply?

Applications are made through the Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences. In the first instance prospective students are encouraged to contact Dr Mandy Nelson at The Field Centre to discuss the application process.

Students must;

- Hold an undergraduate Bachelor's degree
- Have a minimum of two years experience of working within an educational setting
- Have a practical aesthetic skill (for example; woodwork, textiles, photography, gardening)
- Be an EU/EEA/Swiss citizen

Ruskin Mill Land Trust also offers a number of other training programmes including Teacher Training, Biodynamic Agriculture, Craft and Residential. For further details, please visit The Field Centre website, [www.thefieldcentre.org.uk](http://www.thefieldcentre.org.uk).



Applications close 1 December 2017  
Contact Dr Mandy Nelson  
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[www.thefieldcentre.org.uk](http://www.thefieldcentre.org.uk)